



STATEMENT OF
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FOR A HEARING ON
“A Review of Preparations for the FIFA World Cup 2026”

BEFORE THE
United States Senate
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies
& Subcommittee on Homeland Security

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Introduction

Good morning, Chairman Moran, Chairwoman Britt, Ranking Member Van Hollen, Ranking Member Murphy, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittees, thank you for the opportunity to talk about the critical topic of World Cup 2026. My name is Chris Tomney, and I am the Director of the Office of Homeland Security Situational Awareness at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). In addition to this role, which includes managing the National Operations Center, as codified in 6 U.S.C. § 321d, I currently serve as Senior Coordinating Official for DHS in support of the White House Task Force on FIFA World Cup 2026.

Last May, I was appointed to this role by former Secretary Noem to serve as the Department's lead for DHS efforts supporting the White House Task Force on World Cup. In this forum, established through Presidential Executive Order 14234, I work with my ten counterparts from across the interagency and the Task Force office to coordinate federal actions necessary to ensure a safe, secure, and enjoyable tournament. The FBI, for example, is a fellow Task Force agency, and their teamwork has been superb.

As you know, this summer's World Cup tournament will be the most complex and widespread sporting event in the history of the world. Not only will we have 78 matches across 11 cities in the space of 39 days, but we will also have 39 team base camps and dozens of official Fan Fests and watch parties across America. The event will be a whole-of-government event, coming at the same time as America's 250th birthday celebrations and the many other events, such as Sail250 and the Joint Session of Congress.

Organization

Within DHS, I have a small team to assist with central coordination of our Department's activities. However, the primary mechanism by which we integrate DHS's activities is through our World Cup Coordination Council. This Council is comprised of Senior Executives from all DHS Components and Offices, who are charged with coordinating activities inside their organization. This model provides visibility and cooperation throughout the Department, both vertically and horizontally.

Through the Council and White House Task Force structures, we work to ensure consequence management planning, counter-unmanned aerial system operations, threat and intelligence efforts, anti-human trafficking, and visa and visitor processes are robust. We are finalizing enhanced information-sharing processes and common operating pictures to prevent miscommunication and improve situational awareness during the tournament.

DHS Security Efforts

In the match cities, DHS's Federal Coordinators are the lead federal agents for safety and security planning. DHS appoints a Federal Coordinator to work directly with state and local authorities whenever an event rises to a particular level of security concern, called a SEAR level,

which stands for Special Event Assessment Rating. To illustrate the scale of this event, the number of SEAR-rated matches for the World Cup will multiply our typical annual workload for these events several times over, all condensed into a few short weeks.

These Federal Coordinators began working with the state, local, and host committee planners over a year ago, to help build a robust security plan for tournament activities. Through security committees, preparedness exercises, and detailed planning, the Federal Coordinators have been integral parts of tournament preparations. The Federal Coordinators are supported by the Special Events Program at DHS, which provides guidance, support, and assistance if federal security resources are needed to fill a gap in host city capabilities. Because we normally have only one SEAR event at a time, like the Super Bowl, DHS is usually able to fulfill these security requests internally. Given the scope and scale of the World Cup, the host cities have significant requirements.

To fill these security requests, DHS is working with host cities to leverage all available resources. This includes coordinating with state and local partners through mutual aid compacts and utilizing the \$625 million of FEMA grant funding, spread across 11 cities, to help defray security costs. By taking a whole-of-community approach, we are working to ensure a robust security posture at every venue.

While the Federal Government has significant resources, we must balance the support required for the World Cup with our other critical, enduring missions, such as protecting our nation's aviation system, preventing terrorism, and securing the border. We continue to work with our partners to ensure all security requirements are met while maintaining our global commitments.

The FY 2026 President's Budget includes significant funding across the Department for the World Cup. Once FY 2026 appropriations are enacted, DHS components will properly allocate funding for the tournament. Additionally: 1) the U.S. Secret Service aligned \$16 million in the FY 2025 Budget for early planning and procurements; 2) the Office of the Secretary leveraged \$100 million from their Working Families Tax Cut Act (WFTC) funding to distribute C-UAS through S&T across the Department; and 3) the U.S. Coast Guard utilized \$170 million from their WFTC funding to purchase C-UAS equipment in support of World Cup security.

Conclusion

That said, there is no part of DHS not fully engaged and dedicated to this mission. The dedicated men and women of the Department have never wavered in their focus on this tournament. Similarly, our interagency partners provide support of every kind, ranging from intelligence reporting, law enforcement support, geospatial and graphic support, visa processing, and transportation and small business programs. DHS is grateful to all of these partners, not just the 10 other Task Force agencies, for helping provide a safe and secure World Cup tournament.

Thank you for the opportunity to be here today and I look forward to answering your questions.